Name of distributorships	Market	Customers	Waiting list
1. Parvat Gas Service	Nainital	22970	448
2. Almora Gas Service	Almora	14471	2460
3. Ranikhet Gas Service	Ranikhet	11529	2995
4. Haldwani Gas Service	Haldwani	15432	4380
5. Ramnagar Gas Service	Ramnagar	6546	4688
6. Choudhary Gas	Haldwani	11364	7407

(b) Release of new connections against waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with existing distributors, minimum/ sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributorships/unviable distributors etc.

As per policy, connections at places situated above 2000 ft. level, are to be released across the counter in all the specified hilly areas. These include Nainital, Almora and Ranikhet. Haldwani and Ramnagar are situated below 2000 ft. level.

(c) Other places in hill districts of Kumaun Region in Uttar Pradesh where LPG facilities are available are:—

1. Bajpur
2. Jaspur
3. Kashipur
4. Khatima
5. Kichha
6. Pantnagar
7. Rudrapur
8. Tanakpur
9. Baleshwar
10. Dharchula
11. Pithoragarh
12. Didihat
13. Lohaghat

IOC Ltd. are also marketing LPG at 109 more places which are very small. LPG is being marketed at these places through the extension points of main distributorships.

All the major places have been covered for LPG marketing. Opening of LPG distributorship extension points based on request from Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. in the hilly areas of Kumaon Region has been permitted from time to time keeping in view the product availability.

Criticism of oil exploration work by planning commission

*380 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of crude oil likely to be imported during the next five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has critised the performance of oil exploration, recently; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The quantity of crude oil import would depend on the over all demand & indigenous production of crude oil.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, in the "Background Note on the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997—2002 and Annual Plan 1997-98 for Petroleum Sector" the Planning Commission has observed that the hydrocarbon reserve accretion during the Eighth Plan period has been far below the target and that in the exploration Strategy, thrust needs to be given for exploration in deep waters and in other frontier areas.

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